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THE WONDERFUL CENTURY: Its Successes and Failures. By Alfred Russel Wallace. 8vo. London: Swan Sonnenschein & Co., 1898. Pp. 400, twelve diagrams, portrait.

This is an interesting appreciation of the successes and failures of the nineteenth century by an illustrious veteran who has spent his life in the service of science and his fellow-men. Railways, steamships, electric telegraphs, the telephone, lucifer matches, gas illumination, electric lighting, photography, the phonograph, Röntgen rays, spectrum analysis, anæsthetics, antiseptics, the theory of the conservation of energy, the molecular theory of gases, the measurement of the velocity of light and the earth's rotation, the uses of dust, the principle of chemical combination in definite proportions, the study of meteors and the meteoritic theory, the study of the glacial epoch, the discovery of the antiquity of man, the establishment of the idea of organic evolution, the cell-theory and the foundation of embryology, the germ-theory of disease and the discovery of the function of leucocytes,—these are the achievements of the nineteenth century in science and its applications. The author contrasts them with what was gained in *all* preceding ages, so as to justify his title, “The Wonderful Century.”

On the other hand, there are failures,—the neglect of phrenology, the depreciation of hypnotism and psychical research, the delusion of vaccination, the failure to perceive the fallacy of militarism, competitive individualism, and earth-plunder. The general conclusion is that the material and intellectual advance has been unprecedented, but that ethical and social development has not kept pace with this.

J. A. T.

NEO-MALTHUSIANISM: An Inquiry into that System with Regard to its Economy and Morality. By R. Ussher. 8vo. London: Gibbings & Co., 1898. Pp. 325.

This book is intended to show that recourse to Neo-Malthusian methods is morally and economically pernicious. It is argued that the counsels of the Neo-Malthusians tend to reduce marriage to monogamic prostitution, by suggesting a method whereby the sexual passions may be indulged irresponsibly as far as the possibility of progeny is concerned. It is also argued that the methods are economically fallacious, since they do not touch the social evils which have led to their adoption. Raise the moral ideals of control, chivalry, and chastity; let the human character have a chance